

VIRGINIAN-PILOT.

—BY THE—
VIRGINIAN AND PILOT PUBLISHING COMPANY.

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN AND DAILY PILOT
(Consolidated March, 1898.)

Entered at the Postoffice at Norfolk, Va., as second-class matter.

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NORFOLK, VA.

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LISHING COMPANY.

EIGHT PAGES.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1900.

For President,
WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN
OF NEBRASKA.

For Vice-President,
ADLAIR E. STEVENSON
OF ILLINOIS.

THE POLITICAL CONVERT.

"Along about this stage of every cam-
paign the newspapers of each party
begin to exploit the "prominent men"
who have "come over," and what these
prominent men say on their arrival, or
shortly before, or after that interesting
event. That may possibly be one reason
why these prominent men swap
sides occasionally. In any event, this
process is in full swing this year, and
is supposed to be significant of whole-
sale and sweeping changes to come
when the common, ordinary citizen
begins to troop after the leaders who
have vaulted the party fence.

This view of the matter may be
eminently correct, but, unfortunately,
there is absolutely nothing in political
history to show that it is correct. We
are decidedly of the opinion that the
importance of the leader who experi-
ences a change of heart and affects a
corresponding change of party allegi-
ance, is very apt to be overestimated.
He never comes up to the prospectus.
He may be a leader, but when he quits
his party he likewise quits leading for
the time being. We had no end of this
sort of thing in 1896. The Democrats
got Henry M. Teller, a most able man,
and a lot more of them; the Repub-
licans acquired Whitney and Cockran
and others. Billy bynum and Palmer
and Buckner set up a separate mena-
gerie, but neither the one nor the
other did any leading worth mention-
ing. If every one of them had stayed
with his old party it is doubtful that
the electoral vote of a single State
would have been counted differently.

In short, the man behind the vote is
very apt to stick by his party when
the man behind the mouth quits—and
it is the man behind the vote who
counts. A considerable number of men
change sides at each election, but it is,
generally speaking, pretty well a stand-
off the whole country over. It is the
stay-at-homes, the new voters, the in-
dependents who play havoc with pre-
election prophecies and political aspira-
tions. We hear a great deal about the
million voters who quit the Democratic
party in 1896; yet somehow it managed
to show up at the polls with a million
more than it ever had before.

The Democrats have a splendid
chance to carry the country this fall,
but they are not going to do it with
converted Republicans, though there
will be a good sprinkling of these. Nor
will the Republicans carry the country
by means of converted Democrats,
though undoubtedly they will have
some of them on exhibition in every
State. Each of these is a factor, but
the "prominent men" who come over,
bearing type-written interviews in their
arms, will, this year, as always, cut
very little ice. We are glad to have
Hon. Webster Davis, but it is doubtful
that he is worth 1,000 votes in the whole
United States to the Democratic ticket.
The same applies to Hon. John Barrett
or Hon. Charles Denby, who have come
out for McKinley and Roosevelt. The
"prominent" political convert is a good
deal of a gold brick.

AS TO REUNIONS OF THE BLUE AND THE GRAY.

The revival of the project at the re-
union of the Grand Army of the Re-
public, at Chicago, to have next year
a grand reunion of the Blue and the
Gray did credit to the hearts of the
veterans of Grant and Sherman and
Sheridan. Nevertheless, we are of the
opinion that the Confederate veterans
of Richmond are entirely right in their
position that such reunions are in-
expedient and ill-advised.

There is no longer any animosity be-
tween the sections as such. The South
has sent her sons to the North and to
the West, and in every line of hono-
rable endeavor they have achieved dis-
tinction; the North has sent her cap-
ital into the South in ever increasing
volume and our industries have been
quickerened by Yankee energy and en-
terprise; each section is proud of the
achievements of a reunited country.
All this is most comfortable and com-
mendable. But a reunion of the veter-
ans of the North and the South rests
on quite other grounds and offers quite
different possibilities. Ninety-nine out
of a hundred of the veterans of either
side could camp together without any-
thing unpleasant or regrettable hap-
pening, but, unfortunately, the hun-
dredth man can be depended on to con-
tribute all the unpleasantness needed to
mar an occasion that does not rest
upon any too solid basis of good-fel-
lowship.

The wounds of war have healed, yes;
but the scars are still sensitive, and
it's no good prodding them with the
finger. These reunions seem to rest
upon an exaggeration of a very proper
sentiment rather than upon the senti-
ment itself; and exaggerated senti-
ments are extremely attenuated basis
for anything. Time will take care of
any lingering bitterness of the war be-
tween the States; to forget is better
than to explain, when the matter is
past mending. Mutual assurances of
esteem and regard as between the Blue
and the Gray are no longer necessary.
They can be taken for granted. The
reunions are poetic in their way, doubt-
less, as seen from afar. But it is diffi-
cult to live up to the poetic and some-
thing usually ruffles the surface of
things, as at Atlanta.

Good feeling between the veterans of
either side is more likely to be pro-
moted by their meeting, not as men
who once fought one another to the
bitter end for a principle, as to which
they have not changed their views,
but as citizens of a common country.
It is better that they should ignore the
fact that they were once enemies than
to afford opportunity for the extremes
of one side or the other to show that
some are enemies still.

The Virginian-Pilot is indebted to
some unknown friend for a copy of the
Cleveland Press containing a letter of
Mayor Samuel M. Jones, of Toledo,
expressive of his attitude in this cam-
paign. The "Jones vote," it will be re-
membered, constitutes the balance of
power in Ohio. Mr. Jones says:
"I intend to be in the coming cam-
paign, giving all the strength and in-
fluence that I have to the cause of
truth, to the cause of LIBERTY,
EQUALITY and DEMOCRACY. I intend
to plead for principles, and to ignore
parties and persons as far as pos-
sible. In short, I intend to speak the
truth regarding a scientific and po-
litical relation as best I can. I do
not believe in war at all, and shall
unqualifiedly say so in the future, as
I have in the past. I do not believe
that government can derive "just pow-
er" in any other way than by the con-
sent of the governed. I believe in
Equality, in Democracy, I think, to a
much greater extent even than Mr.
Bryan does."

Ohio's vote in 1896, when Jones was
an independent candidate for Govern-
or, was as follows: Nash (Rep.), 417,
199; McLean (Dem.), 353,175; Jones
(Ind.), 106,721. If Mr. Jones speaks for
"liberty, equality and Democracy" in
Ohio this fall there will be trouble for
Hon. Mark Hanna.

The Galveston News takes the ground
that the low plane of politics in New
York is due to the fact that its citizens
are "hard and fast party" men. This
is rather surprising. There is no other
State where party ties bind so loosely.
The change is from 45,000 Democratic
to 268,000 Republican in the short space
of four years, and then in two years
drops back to 17,000 Republican ma-
jority. New York politics may be bad,
but it is not due to taut party lines.

Hon. William McKinley again
changes his mind and says he wants
to withdraw American troops from
Pekin. If he can keep the voters
guessing until after election, we shall
hear no more of his withdrawing
troops, unless he fails to get "perpet-
uated."

One of the newest old canards of the
Republican press is that the Democrats
wish to "pack the Supreme Court,"
thereby aiming a blow at law and
order. The Republican press is gradu-
ally forging ahead from the region of
unwarranted inference to that of pure
fabrication.

General Chaffee says he can see the
end of the trouble in China. As he
failed to specify which end we are
privileged to hope it is not the same
terminus that General Otis espied in
the Philippines.

Whatever may befall Hon. Bird S.
Coler, and the indications are it will
be a plenty—he has had the satisfaction
of being the focus of a beautiful politi-
cal twist up.

Hon. Marcus A. Hanna has another
call for his harmony club. Governor
Tanner and Senator Cullom are busily
engaged in a little mutual political
slaughter in Illinois.



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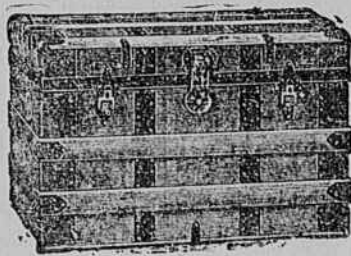
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sion lock, 2 trays,
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